



THE DIRT

Catching up on the Duke Gardens Volunteers

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Beneath the Wisteria

by Chuck Hemric

The 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon was held on April 16 and was fun for all. What is a “Fajita Fandango”? If you were not there you do not know. We changed the theme this year from a Luau to a Mexican fiesta. Festive music filled the air and the aroma from the food kept the attention of everyone.

Following the lunch, everyone settled in for the awards program and was charmed by the wit of the Gardens’ staff. Different staff spoke about projects that were completed with volunteer support in their respective areas during the past year. They then offered whimsical “awards” to various volunteers, telling tales that made everyone laugh.

The program then ended with the presentation of the Thyme Award, given to the volunteer with the most hours recorded. Mary Eubanks was the recipient this year. All the past winners of the Gehman Award who were in attendance were recognized as we took a reflective stroll through history. The Gehman Award is presented to the outstanding volunteer as nominated by the Gardens’ staff. Geraldine Sheehy was the recipient of the Gehman Award for 2009. A special Powerpoint presentation showcased the magnificent work of our volunteer photographers. The program ended with a video presentation of the year-in-review, showing many volunteers in their volunteer “element.”

Congratulations to all the volunteers who were recognized and special thanks to each and every volunteer for the strong commitment that is demonstrated to Duke Gardens through your service.

Wishing everyone a happy summer!



Jerry Sheehy
2009 Gehman Award Winner

2009 Spring Plant and Craft Festival

by Edna Gaston

Mother Nature was shining on Duke Gardens! The festival weekend began with a pre-sale to Friends of Duke Gardens and employees of Duke University. This is a relatively new event and getting bigger and better with each sale. A delicious dinner arranged by Teresa Dark followed, with the highlight of the evening being a talk by Cecilia Budd Grimes on the meaning and importance of being Southern.

On a perfect Saturday morning our annual spring plant and craft festival began! Thanks to the hard work of Jason Holmes and his propagation volunteers, an abundance of plants awaited our visitors. The rest of the horticultural staff pitched in to present a wonderful display representing the historic core of the Gardens, the Blomquist and Culberson areas, including native plants, trees, shrubs, perennials—anything a gardener could dream of planting.

Sixteen vendors unloaded from their vehicles a wide array of plants and crafts—pottery, photographs, birdhouses, orchids, carnivorous plants, vegetables, herbs, bedding plants and a vast assortment of fantastic perennials!

As usual this event would not be possible without Chuck Hemric and his volunteers—over 50 people combined their efforts to bring this event to the public. Tasks included copying flyers, answering questions, potting plants, marking the vendor spaces in the parking lot, moving tables, setting up tents and, of course, selling plants, answering questions and staffing check-out. Many thanks to everyone.

Don't miss out on the fun! The next adventure is this fall, with a pre-sale to Friends of Duke Gardens, employees of Duke University, and volunteers at Duke Gardens on Friday, September 25, and then the sale open to all on Saturday, September 26. Help is needed prior to the event as well as those two days. Volunteer now before you are drafted!

Again, many thanks to those who helped before, during and after the festival as well as those who came to buy! Now on to the next one!! Pass the word!

Into The Garden

Children's Education and Family Programs

by Annie Nashold



Spring brought another flourishing season for children and families at Duke Gardens. Volunteers have led and assisted in bringing many learning experiences to our community, including Nature for Sprouts, school programs, story time, hospital visits, and the Nature Ranger Cart. The Nature Ranger Cart was a new addition this spring and it has been a huge success. Our wonderfully painted traveling cart brings informal opportunities to drop-in visitors to the Gardens on Friday mornings throughout the spring and fall. Among the offerings from the cart are making butterflies, pressed-flower bookmarks, and leaf rubbings, as well as garden scavenger hunts. A crew of six volunteers has been leading this program. Many thanks to Judith Roth, Rosalia Blanco, Lori Febbo, Rose Boyarsky, Marcia Angle, and Emmy Patton who have faithfully greeted and assisted families with children as they visit the Gardens.

See you in the Gardens.



Two of a Kind

by Jerry Sheehy

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting two remarkable ladies who share their volunteer hours with the Gardens at Duke. They are Kay Clarke-Keffer and Anne McNally (Anne is the mother of Duke's baseball coach). Another sister, Mary Haney, is not volunteering at this time but plans to return soon. Their family history and how they came to Duke and Durham is so interesting I'd like to share it with you.

The sisters grew up in Rye, New York, and were three of a family of six children—three boys and three girls. Apparently, theirs was a very happy family, for at an early age they all vowed to live together again in later life. Subsequently, they all married and all but Anne moved to other states. Kay lived for 35 years in Miami, Anne continued to live in New York, and Mary moved to Pennsylvania. One brother, who had lived in Texas, was killed in Vietnam; another brother lived in New Jersey, and the third brother lived in Florida. As a close family they shared holidays whenever possible and took other trips together.

Anne and her husband, Frank, made many trips to Durham to visit their son, Sean, a student at Duke and a member of the baseball team. They liked Duke and Durham and decided to move here. When Anne's sisters visited her in Durham, they enjoyed being here too, and decided to move into the same condominium community. Each has her own condo and they visit each other almost every day; in effect, the family is beginning to fulfill its vow to live together again. (Since I have no sisters or brothers, I have asked to be adopted.)

They are such a happy and optimistic group, and a pleasure to work with wherever in the Gardens your volunteer efforts take you. If you have not met them, take time to introduce yourself and tell them you read the article about them in *The Dirt*. You'll be glad you did!



Anne McNally & Kay Clarke-Keffer

Ashley, We'll Miss You!

by Jerry Sheehy



Ashley Carmichael, Coordinator of Events for the Doris Duke Center and The Sarah P. Duke Gardens, was the center of attention of all staff members and volunteers attending her departure luncheon on June 9th. The lunch featured Mexican food, with wraps for soft tacos and lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, etc., as fillers. For dessert there were big chocolate cookies and brownies. Yum! Yum!

After announcements, Bill LeFevre welcomed those in attendance and encouraged everyone to speak "good-byes" to Ashley. Each person had something kind to say to commend her for the wonderful job she has done while working at the Gardens. Ashley was "Princess for the Day" as everyone wished her well and welcomed Jen, who has been training for the position of Events Director.

Another party was given by Theo Roddy on July 29th at Parker & Otis on Duke Street, with about 20 friends, including members of the staff and volunteers, enjoying the shop's famous salads, breads, wines, and wonderful chocolate—dark chocolate, light chocolate, chocolate with nuts, and chocolate-chip cookies. (I loved the chocolate as you can tell! Chocolate in any form!) Ashley and Dusty enthused about their move to Burgaw, near Wilmington, N. C. Dusty and Ashley have moved into a new phase of their life together and we wish them well. Be Happy!

Welcome to the group, Jen!

Six degrees of Sarah P. Duke Gardens

by Nan Len

Sarah P. Duke Gardens and The Thin Man

This is another installment in the “Six Degrees of Sarah P. Duke Gardens,” my series about the connections of our Gardens to people and things that you might not expect.



Lucile Watson in August
1921 Vanity Fair 1

Those of you who are movie buffs may remember the six *Thin Man* movies made in the 1930s and '40s. William Powell and Myrna Loy starred as Nick and Nora Charles who drank a lot, had witty conversations, and solved murders. They had a dog named Asta who both helped and hindered their investigations.

The first movie, *The Thin Man*, was made in 1934. The screenplay was based on a hardboiled detective novel of the same name by Dashiell Hammett. Although the “thin man” of the novel and the movie was actually the main suspect, somehow that moniker (yeah, that hardboiled stuff gets under my skin) stuck to William Powell. *The Thin Man* was Hammett’s last novel, but Hollywood knew a good thing, and five more *Thin Man* movies followed.

How in the world does a series of movies about murder and mayhem have anything to do with our lovely Sarah P. Duke Gardens? Once again, the link be-

gins with Ellen Shipman. Her husband, Louis Evan Shipman (1869-1933), was a moderately successful playwright, author, and editor. In 1927, he and Ellen divorced. The next year, in Paris, he married actress Lucile Watson (1879-1962). They lived in the village of Boury-en-Vexin in France until his death.

Lucile Watson was born in Quebec, Canada, and trained at New York’s Academy of Dramatic Arts. In her early career, she starred in many witty comedies on Broadway, including Shipman’s play *Fools Errant* (1922). Watson was often praised for her stage work. In an interview, she described what came to be known as “Lucile Watson parts”: “They’re all high comedy, with feeling, with pathos—funny, gay, kind, tart and naughty.”

Watson’s regular appearances in the movies began in the 1930s. By then, she was in her fifties and built her film career playing mothers and aunts, often the domineering, imperious dowager type. Among the movies you may have seen her in are *The Women* (1939; she plays the wise mother of Norma Shearer), *Waterloo Bridge* (1940), *Watch on the Rhine* (1943), and *Little Women* (1949).

Although she tended to play stuffy women, she had not lost her comedic flair. In *The Thin Man Goes Home* (1944), she plays Nick Charles’s mother as an affectionate, somewhat absent-minded woman trying to reconcile Nick and his father, the disapproving Dr. Charles (played by Harry Davenport).

Watson continued her stage work and appeared in movies and television into the 1950s. She died in New York City.



Our Newest Volunteers

Joyce Avery
Aniela Avery-Jones
Brian Avery-Jones
Charles Clark
Chris Crawford
Jonathan Crawford
Dana de Moncada
Steve Duncan
Lori Febbo

Lori Fendell
Adam Folta
Kako Gagnon
Annabel Garrett
Cindy Gibson
Tina Godwin
Katrina Greely
Rosalia Blanco
Thomas Harding

Mary Hedges
Benjamin Holt
Wendell Hull
Yoko Iwashima
Nikita Khlstov
Beatrice Litt
Dave Milkereit
Gwen Neidig

Kazu Okada
Jimmy O’Neal
Shannon O’toole
Jean Reniers
Susan Rohde
Beth Smith
Fred Smith
Frances Starn
Chizuko Sueyoshi

Maki Takahashi
Tali Trigg
Kaylynn Webb
Richard White
Abby Wilkins
Yoki Yamagishi
Dennis yelle

Spring and Summer in The Terrace Shop

by Leola Smith and Millicent Rogers

Everything is beautiful this time of year at the Gardens and, here at The Terrace Shop, we are pleased to announce that beautiful things are also in bloom around our store! We invite you to come pay us a visit as you stroll through the Gardens. We also want to take the time to thank the numerous volunteers and customers that helped make the Spring 2009 Plant Sale a success despite the economic situation.

The state of the economy has affected our country, our state, and our neighborhoods. As we all wait for the economy to bounce back, we encourage you still to support the Sarah P. Duke Gardens by visiting and purchasing gifts from the shop. We know some of you will not be able to go on major vacations and are instead taking “stay-cations.” We encourage you to come to our shop and pick up souvenir items to help make your stay-cation more exciting!

Your son, daughter, grandsons, and granddaughters can pick up plants, plant stakes, and garden flags that will make your garden the best place to be. We have realistic frogs, ladybugs, and butterflies that will live in your garden all year long. Come by and let us help you make your home garden a small version of what you see on your visits here! We have fountains and statues that can help to make your garden as picturesque as the one where the shop is located.

Once your fountains, plants, and plant stakes are in place, invite a few friends over to enjoy tea or lemonade in your beautiful oasis. Entertain them with more gifts from The Terrace Shop. We have dinner and guest napkins, as well as beautiful garden-themed serving pieces that will reflect the beauty of your garden. For those of you who still intend to take a vacation, come by the Shop and pick up a “piece of home” to take with you on your travels. Give your loved ones or hosts a part of the South with pictures and postcards from the Gardens, or craft items that were made here by Gardens volunteers. We look forward to seeing each smiling face in our shop in the fall .

Waterlily Competition Returns to Duke Gardens

By Tamara Kilbane

Duke Gardens is hosting the IWGS New Waterlily Competition again this summer! The contest recognizes outstanding new waterlily hybrids from around the world. This year we received about a dozen new hybrids from Thailand, Cyprus, Canada, and the United States, all vying to be crowned the Best Waterlily of 2009. The plants are being showcased in the Fish Pool at the base of the Terraces through September.

The popular “People’s Choice Awards” has also returned this year, giving visitors the opportunity to choose their favorites. Voting lasts through August 31st using ballots available pond-side, or by visiting our website. The official voting by a panel of IWGS judges will take place in late July; results will be posted on the organization’s website at www.iwgs.org.

Preparations for the contest began behind the scenes in the propagation greenhouse this spring. The young plants were photographed, potted, fertilized, and placed in heated water tables. The hardy waterlilies were placed outdoors once they developed a good set of roots, while the tropical entries moved outside during the second week of June.

Joining the contest lilies in our ponds are an array of marginal aquatic plants, including Umbrella Palm (*Cyperus alternifolius*), Hardy Thalia (*Thalia dealbata*), Pickerel Plant (*Pontederia cordata*), Cattails (*Typha* spp.), and Lotus (*Nelumbo* spp.).

Contest winners from past years are on display in the Virtue Peace Pond behind the Doris Duke Center. The impressive Amazon waterlilies also grace our pools this summer. This year we feature *Victoria cruziana* and *Victoria* ‘Adventure’ in the Fish Pool, while *Victoria* ‘Longwood Hybrid’ once again highlights the Virtue Peace Pond.

A special thank you goes to our outstanding “waterlily team” volunteers - John Wyman, Karen Webbink, Jeff Prather, and Jean Reniers, who make the contest a success and our display ponds beautiful each summer. You can find them hard at work in the ponds each Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer months. Stop by and say hello!



Youthful Exuberance!

This summer we have enjoyed the youthful energy of several young ladies and gentlemen from the Durham Community. Each of these outstanding young people opted to volunteer here at Duke Gardens in their quest to obtain the Mayor's Award of Durham. To obtain this honor, each young person must volunteer 100 hours during the summer prior to the resumption of their school year. I am pleased to say that each of our young volunteers has achieved their 100 hour goal. I will gladly complete their nomination forms in hopes that they can each receive this prestigious award. Some of our youth volunteered this summer to fulfill their high school graduation requirements. Still others helped out on short-term projects like the children's summer camp.



Kavlynn Webb



Christopher Crawford



Abby Wilkins



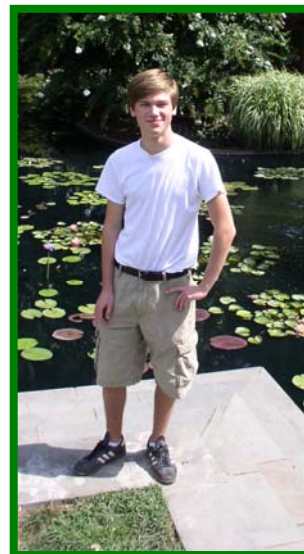
Seth Rose



Shannon O'Toole



Jonathan Crawford



Nikita Khlystov



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